NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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Dear Local President:

A WEEK AGO I attended a White House Conference. It was a meeting of the U. S. Children's Bureau Commission on Children in Wartime and was called to consider the problem of the increase in juvenile delinquency. Mrs. Roosevelt met with us and gave us the benefit of her observations in England.

Prevention of delinquency, however, is not to be accomplished by conference, by edict, or even by legislation. It is a thing that must be accomplished by the people of every local community, planning and working together wisely and well in behalf of their children.

The group showing the greatest disturbance is made up of girls fourteen to sixteen years old. These girls are often considered too young to participate significantly in the community war effort. The recreation centers formerly available to them have been taken over by adults, either service men or workers in war industry. There is no suitable place for them to go. Yet this is the very age at which young girls need special guidance and supervision.

The demand for prevention of further increase in delinquency among members of this age group seems to me a direct challenge to parent-teacher associations wherever they may be. The factors that have brought about the present distressing situation will increase, not lessen, during the approaching vacation period. It is therefore most important that we plan now for summer recreation projects and for activities in which these young people can make themselves useful and significant in the summer war work of the community. Those of them who serve on farms to help save all-important food crops must be safeguarded socially as well as physically.

What greater opportunity could be given us, as organized parents and teachers, to serve the youth of our country at the time of its critical need? As your national president, I urge you to *act now to make sure that your parent-teacher association will remain on the job all summer!*

Faithfully yours,

Virginia Klebs

President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

BOARD OF MANAGERS CANCELS NATIONAL CONVENTION

IN VIEW OF the vital importance of relieving our transportation facilities of as much civilian travel as possible, our Government has asked us to cooperate by canceling our convention. Therefore, the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers has voted to cancel the national convention for 1943. The convention was to have been held in Chicago in May.

The action of the Board, which is regarded as a patriotic duty under the existing circumstances, is in line with tentative action taken at the national convention in San Antonio in May, 1942, when it was realized in advance that the cancellation might become necessary. Arrangements are now being made for dispatching the necessary business of the convention by other means.

There will be no slackening, naturally, of National Congress activities for 1943. Rather, there will be an even greater drive toward victory and toward a nationally effective parent-teacher program. American resourcefulness is more than a match for any difficulty that may arise. Further developments will be reported later.

War Activities Questionnaire

Have you filled in and returned yours? Send to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO *"The Family In War?"*

Time: Saturdays 2:45—3:00 E.W.T.
Over: NBC Network.

THIS is the National Congress' radio program, which goes on the air every Saturday afternoon at 2:45 Eastern War Time. The NBC network carries the program, since the broadcasts are made possible through the courtesy of the National Broadcasting Company. If you haven't listened in already, plan to do so *next Saturday*. In "The Family in War" you will hear a typical American family — the Baxters, Marge and Bill, and their three children — discuss home problems familiar to all parents who are striving to cope intelligently with wartime situations. If you like radio dramatizations, you will enjoy this quarter-hour P.T.A. program. And at the end of the dramatization you will have an opportunity of listening to the editor of your own *National Parent-Teacher* Magazine, who, as the Voice of the P.T.A., offers helpful advice in solving the problems presented.

Listen in next Saturday, and be sure to let us know how you like the program. Send your letter or postal to Radio Project Committee, Room 1301, 600 S. Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

ANSWERING *Wartime* QUESTIONS

I.

HOW can we demonstrate to the officials of OPA, OCD, and other local and regional Government agencies that parent-teacher work in wartime is important and essential?

1. Discuss your local parent-teacher program with the officials. Outline the projects and activities carried on in the interests of children and youth.
2. Take along a copy of the parent-teacher *War Handbook* to show to the officials. Discuss with them the items that the local association has selected to emphasize as part of its war effort. (*Extra copies of the* Handbook *are available at cost, plus postage, in case locals wish to give copies to various officials. Prices may be obtained from the state congress office.)*
3. State definitely that the P.T.A. is a volunteer service organization of men and women who meet together to plan and promote cooperative, constructive projects in behalf of children. Point out that it is not a "tea-party" or social group. Stress the fact that, while refreshments may be served occasionally after the business and study or discussion program, this is incidental to the purpose of the meeting. The social hour promotes group and community morale.
4. Show the officials a copy of the organization's official national magazine — the *National Parent-Teacher.* Call attention to the fact that any organization that can produce and sustain a magazine of this quality at $1 a subscription is rendering a notable service to the homes and schools of America. Tell how the local association uses the material in the Magazine in its program of work.

II.

Shall we continue parent-teacher work during the summer?

- Yes. Since parent-teacher members are helping to win the war and the peace through service on the home front, parent-teacher work should be an all-year-round wartime undertaking. The men in our armed forces do not stop fighting during June, July, and August.

III.

What are the most important things to be done during the coming summer? Parent-teacher leaders should begin now to select summertime activities to which they can lend their organized effort and support.

1. Cooperate in crop harvesting; plan ways in which adults with leisure time may help. *(The association can set an example by arranging to harvest a crop.)*
2. Assist in setting up recreation facilities, especially for boys and girls in the early adolescent years — fourteen to eighteen.
3. Assist in day care programs for children of mothers who have war jobs.
4. Cooperate in cultivating community or individual Victory gardens.
5. *As a P.T.A. group,* develop Victory gardens to supply produce for school lunches when schools reopen in the fall. Prepare a food stock pile for the lunchrooms through canning, dehydrating, and other storage projects.
6. Plan classes in group feeding to train workers for school lunch responsibilities.
7. As a parent-teacher group, donate blood to the Blood Bank. While all members may not be able to do this, enough can volunteer to make it a P.T.A. contribution.

IV.

What shall we do if it is suggested that we disband?

1. Do not disband without first asking your state leaders for information and assistance in solving the problems that have arisen because of war restrictions or pressure. Misinformed and ill-advised persons who are not sympathetic to the parent-teacher movement are apt to try to use the war emergency to undermine the value of parent-teacher work to our schools and to our country's fight for freedom. During the war emergency one meeting a year may suffice to hold a group together in organizational unity. Of course, several meetings are better than one, but if you can have one meeting only, at that meeting the business of the association can be transacted and the work of the association can move forward through established committee activities. When in doubt about any parent-teacher question or problem, refer it immediately to your state leaders.
2. When a meeting cannot be held, do not speak of it as a *discontinued* meeting; speak of it as *recessed, postponed, skipped, or deferred.* Members will then look forward to having the meeting at some future date. Publicize the fact that, although formal meetings are not being held, the association work is being carried on by the various committees, who will report to the association when it is possible to meet as a group.

V.

Will we lose our P.T.A. charter if we do not meet regularly?

- All state congresses can take action that will make it possible for local associations to waive for the duration any regulations governing the required number of meetings. This applies to goals, standards, and awards as well as to charters.

VI.

How many meetings should we have in a year?

- Have just as many regular meetings as possible. Evidence of active committee work may be accepted in lieu of meetings in areas where travel is restricted. When you do meet, make each meeting worth while in terms of some phase of our national war effort. Many suggestions are listed in the *War Handbook.*

"No group in the country is contributing more to the war effort or to our American way of life than is the parent-teacher organization. The very things for which our armed forces are fighting are the things parent-teacher groups have believed in and worked for down through the years. It is our duty to see to it that parent-teacher work goes on, so that our sons and daughters, when they return from the fighting fronts, will find practiced in our communities all the democratic procedures of a free nation. Convinced of the importance of our service to children and youth, let each of us do his part to hold the P.T.A. line on the home front." *Letitia J. Lytle, National Treasurer*

P. T. A. *Wartime Service* PROGRAM

MORALE

● The National Congress of Parents and Teachers, through its 28,000 parent-teacher associations, is publicizing in every way possible — by forums, broadcasts, publications, and study group discussions — the democratic ideals and the humanitarian goals of the war, as well as the necessity for unity and loyalty. Creation and maintenance of a cheerful, wholesome environment for children and youth, for families, and for working newcomers in the wartime community are emphasized.

HEALTH

● An all-out program of health through public education, disease prevention, and physical development is conducted. Regular health examinations for both children and adults are promoted, and classes are sponsored in school and home sanitation, housing, first aid, nutrition, home nursing, and child care. The Summer Round-Up of the Children continues as one of the most important of parent-teacher projects. Control of venereal diseases is stressed. The community school lunch program is conducted by thousands of associations all over the country.

EDUCATION

● The parent-teacher association is a staunch champion of the nation's best school standards at a time when these standards are in danger. The curtailment of essential services and facilities is steadfastly opposed. Federal legislation to equalize educational opportunity for all American children is continually urged. The rural school problem is a matter of immediate concern. The P.T.A. offers supplementary volunteer assistance to schools in such established school services as libraries, school clubs, school social activities, school excursions, playground activities, clerical work, and the High School Victory Corps.

JUVENILE PROTECTION

● The P.T.A. Block Mother plan, which is original within the organization, provides for the appointment of a block mother in every block, with designation of an Open House for children. Block mothers are registered with the civilian defense council of the community. The all-demanding problem of day care for the children of working mothers is now undergoing close study, and P.T.A.'s everywhere are cooperating in the establishment of nursery schools, after-school programs, and professional counseling services for both parents and youth. Adoption laws are under close scrutiny, directed toward safeguarding children from exploitation in any form. Tentative programs for the identification and registration of children are being worked out. Child labor standards are strongly upheld, a vital need at this time, when children are liable to exploitation in the name of necessary war work.

CONSUMER SAFEGUARDS

● The inflation problem, with all its implications, is the subject of constant study and interpretation by the parent-teacher association. P.T.A. consumer education includes education in: price controls; price ceilings; rationing; wage stabilization; informed buying; menu and budget planning; and the provisions of Federal and state food, drug, and cosmetic acts. Cooperation of every member of every family in an intelligent handling of the emergency consumer situation is the objective. To this end much information is disseminated and many study groups are sponsored to enable all citizens, especially homemakers, to act economically and efficiently in conserving, repairing, salvaging, or purchasing any or all of the commodities necessary to civilian family life. Parent-teacher cooperation in all national salvage drives has been and is strong and effective.

SAFETY

● The parent-teacher safety program has been expanded to take account of wartime conditions and now covers all related areas. The prevention of accidents, both in the home and on the highway, is a major topic of study. Safe rules for bicycle riding are distributed. The association is deeply interested in securing adequate attention to the condition and handling of all school buses, putting special emphasis on the selection of drivers.

RECREATION

● The strongest P.T.A. emphasis is on whole-family recreation. The organization believes that present conditions afford a priceless opportunity for developing good family relationships. Whole-community recreation is also promoted, and the use of the public school building and grounds, as well as the public library, by all members of the community is urged. Various community recreational projects, including community sings, amateur theatricals, hobby centers, exhibits, and field days, are carried on in many localities. Traveling libraries and art exhibits are sponsored for communities located in regions difficult of access. These projects not only develop community culture but play an important part in building community morale.

AID TO THE MEN IN SERVICE

● P.T.A. interest in service men is highly personalized. Home hospitality is stressed. Cards of introduction are frequently supplied. Reading material and newspaper subscriptions are furnished the men. Chaperons are frequently supplied for recreational programs in military camps.

COMMUNITY COOPERATION AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE

● P.T.A. cooperation with all community organizations and agencies devoted to education, health, welfare, and recreation is continued and intensified. Volunteer P.T.A. workers are engaged in as many different wartime occupations as there are fields of wartime service. They are also serving in aid of the rationing program. Many units have lists or card indexes of volunteer workers and their special abilities; these are placed at the disposal of the official agency responsible for meeting the particular emergency.

WARTIME FINANCE

● Promotion of the sale of war bonds and stamps is an important P.T.A. war activity. War bonds are considered as an investment for P.T.A. funds. The parent-teacher association cooperates with such community welfare agencies as the Red Cross, the USO, and the Community Chest. No organization in these times puts a stronger emphasis on saving, thrift, and conservation than does the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

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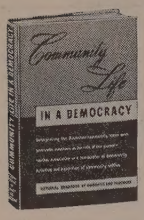
BOOK OF THE QUARTER



Community Life in a Democracy, the outstanding new book recently published by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, has been selected by the Board of Review of the Book-of-the Quarter Club as one of the two books most valuable to school and citizen education at this time. The Book-of-the-Quarter Club is conducted by the National Association of Secondary-School Principals. The other book chosen for this quarter was *School of Citizen Soldier,* a pre-induction manual.

So noteworthy a recognition of the worth of *Community Life in a Democracy* as a handbook for service in these times is reason for honest pride in parent-teacher publishing achievement. It is also a challenge to parents and teachers everywhere to make sure that others do not outstrip us in appreciation of our own considerable assets.

Every parent-teacher home library, school library, and parent-teacher bookshelf should contain — and prominently display — a copy of COMMUNITY LIFE IN A DEMOCRACY. The cost is one dollar. Order from the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

CALIFORNIA VICTORY GARDEN CONTEST

THE Tenth District of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers is conducting a competitive Victory garden project extending from February 15 to June 1. Any family with children in the Los Angeles public schools is eligible.

The purpose of the contest is to stimulate interest in home food production so that more commercially grown produce may be released to the armed forces and the allied nations. Prizes of award ribbons (to individual families) and war bonds (to local parent-teacher associations) will be given on the basis of garden projects faithfully carried through with satisfactory results.

The garden contest is reported to be "going over big." The Tenth District has over 98,000 members, and a valuable contribution to solving the food problem is confidently anticipated.

LOCAL PRESIDENTS: Have you thought of asking your committee chairmen to subscribe to the *National Congress Bulletin?* The subscription price is only 20c a year. Perhaps the association would consider purchasing two or three extra subscriptions for their use.

WMC YOUTH EMPLOYMENT POLICY

THE War Manpower Commission, stating that "the first responsibility and obligation of youth under 18, even in wartime, is to take full advantage of educational opportunities," has outlined specific policies with regard to the employment of young people in wartime work. Neither full-time nor part-time employment as a part of the hired labor force will be available to anyone under the age of 14. For those who are older but still under 18, provisions include suitable hours, suitable work, and adequate pay and living conditions, with transportation where necessary. Special restrictions are placed upon part-time employment of boys and girls still in school, whose continued educational progress is the first consideration. Every effort will be made to maintain adequate school services.

FAN MAIL . . .

EVERY day we hear from subscribers to the *National Parent-Teacher.* These men and women want us to know exactly how they feel about the Magazine, and from time to time we like to share a few of their comments with our *Bulletin* readers. So here are a few excerpts from our fan mail file:

A Subscriber for Sixteen Years.— "I am thoroughly sold on the *National Parent-Teacher* and have taken it every year since my oldest child was of preschool age — 16 years ago. Besides all the instructive articles on parent education there is also so much information about P.T.A. work." — *Mrs. A.R.E.*

For a Daughter.—"Mrs. B. is my daughter. I want her to have contact with your fine publication. She has three young children so I am sure it will be a help to her." — *Mrs. E.C.*

Doing Double Duty.—"We all like the movie previews. Our postmaster always reads them before he gives me my Magazine." — *Mrs. G.*

Study Group Use.—"We are enjoying the study group articles. This is our seventh year and the Magazine gets better with each edition." — *H.M.*

Deadline for Certificates

MARCH 31, 1943, is the deadline for securing Blue or Gold Certificates. Have you sent in the application for yours? In case you have mislaid the requirements, here they are again:

A Blue Certificate to each local association whose elected officers are subscribers to the *National Parent-Teacher.*

A Gold Certificate to each association whose elected officers are subscribers and which has in addition a club of five subscriptions for the use of the membership. Five individually addressed subscriptions will be considered the equivalent of the club of five.

A number of associations have asked whether subscriptions to *Parents' Magazine* will be counted toward the awards. *Parents' Magazine* is *not* the official P.T.A. magazine. We have no connection whatever with it. The awards are given only for subscriptions to the official magazine of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the *National Parent-Teacher.*

If your association is entitled to either the Blue or the Gold Certificate, please apply for it on or before March 31. Address request to National Parent-Teacher, 600 South Michigan Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois.

Send with the request a list of the subscriptions that entitle your P.T.A. to the award.

LOCAL PRESIDENT!

Is your association still without a subscription copy of the *National Parent-Teacher?* If so, won't you do something about it as soon as possible? Only when every P.T.A. has a copy of the *National Parent-Teacher* coming to it each month will our national wartime program be one hundred per cent effective. If for some reason or other you failed earlier to respond to your national president's request for a subscription, make an extra effort now to have the subscription in the Magazine Office by March 31. As the leader of your P.T.A. you can authorize a subscription or suggest to your group at the next meeting that it purchase a subscription in order that vital parent-teacher wartime information may reach your association.

SAVE
THE
FAT